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# Newsroom

March 26, 2018

Georgia Southern University

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# Exercise is Medicine On Campus names Georgia Southern Gold Level Campus

MARCH 26, 2018

Georgia Southern University's Statesboro Campus has been recognized as a Gold Level Campus by Exercise is Medicine® on Campus (EIM®-OC) for the University's diligence to make physical activities a standard.

Using funds received last spring from a faculty service award, Department of Health Sciences and Kinesiology faculty members Greg Ryan, Ph.D., Rob Clouse, M.S., Amy Jo Riggs, Ph.D., Steve Rossi, Ph.D., and Bridget Melton, Ed.D., and students in the Southern Exercise Science Club worked in collaboration with several campus departments including Parking and Transportation, Health Services, and Campus Recreation and Intramurals to plan and promote the campus-wide physical activity campaign, "Get off the Bus Gus and Walk for Your Health."



*Volunteers encourage students to participate in the "Get off the Bus Gus and Walk for Your Health" campaign.*

More than 100 exercise science undergraduate and graduate students assisted with the week-long campaign, which ran during Exercise is Medicine® Week in October. The campaign set out to encourage individuals to promote health and wellness throughout the Statesboro Campus by walking to their destination instead of riding the Southern Express transportation system. Campus volunteers were stationed at all major bus stops, and students who opted to walk instead of riding the bus were given tokens. The first 500 students to turn in four or more tokens were able to exchange them for a free t-shirt.

"We are thankful to Georgia Southern for providing support to allow for faculty to engage in meaningful service," said Melton. "Being recognized as a Gold Level Campus really shows Georgia Southern's commitment to our [campus] community's health and wellness."

Georgia Southern will be honored at a special EIM®-OC recognition session during the 2018 American College of Sports Medicine annual meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on May 30.

*Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research institution founded in 1906, offers 142 degree programs serving more than 27,000 students through nine colleges on three campuses in Statesboro, Savannah, Hinesville and online instruction. A leader in higher education in southeast Georgia, the University provides a diverse student population with expert faculty, world-class scholarship and hands-on learning opportunities. Georgia Southern creates lifelong learners who serve as responsible scholars, leaders and stewards in their communities. Visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu).*

# Georgia Southern students help restore oyster reefs in South Carolina

MARCH 26, 2018



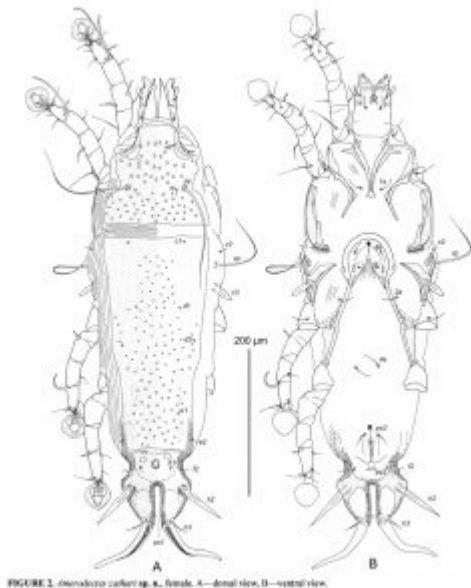
Eleven students from Georgia Southern University assisted the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) on March 2 in establishing a new oyster reef restoration site on Hutchinson Island at the Ashepoo River.

Led by Daniel Gleason, Ph.D., director of the Institute for Coastal Plain Science at the University, and John Carroll, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology, the student group teamed up with University biology graduate Michael Hodges ('01), a biologist with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR).

"Establishing this relationship with Michael Hodges and South Carolina DNR provides several outstanding opportunities for our students," said Gleason. "Not only does it allow them to make a difference by participating in an important restoration activity, but it also puts them in direct contact with individuals who can provide them with access to internships as well as long-term career opportunities in natural resource management."

# Biologists describe eight new species from the Georgia Southern Statesboro Campus

MARCH 26, 2018



Eight new species of feather mites that have never before been described anywhere have been identified on the Georgia Southern University campus in Statesboro. How do eight unknown species go undetected for so long? They are very small and live in a surprising location.

The new species are feather mites of the genus *Amerodectes*, and they live only on the feathers of birds. These tiny mites – an adult is only a little larger than the period at the end of this sentence – cling to the feathers of birds. They feed on oil and other body secretions of their hosts. Once the discovery was made, Sergey Mironov, Ph.D., of the Russian Academy of Sciences and an international authority on feather mites, along with professor Ray Chandler, Ph.D., of the Department of Biology at Georgia Southern, collaborated in order to describe the species in a recent issue of the journal *Zootaxa*, making their findings available to all scientists.

The new mites from the Georgia Southern Statesboro Campus were collected from the feathers of common resident and migratory songbirds: Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Chipping Sparrow, House Finch and Painted Bunting.

"The rarity with which new species are found varies with the taxonomic group," explained Chandler. "New birds and mammals are rarely found. New mites, ants, insects, etc. are described more often; however, in a well-studied area like the U.S., especially on a college campus full of students, this is a rare event." said Chandler.

When deceased birds are found on campus, quite often following a bird's collision with large reflective surfaces on buildings, faculty in the Department of Biology, under a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, carefully preserve them and collect parasites, tissue samples and other potentially useful data. The goal is to gather as much data from each individual bird as possible, which can also then be shared with visiting scientists like Mironov.

"Although birds dying as a result of collisions with surfaces such as windows is a major issue everywhere, at Georgia Southern we are doing our best to make as much use of these specimens as possible," said Chandler. "We never anticipated finding so many new species."

"That common birds on our campus carry undescribed species is a good indication that we have a long way to go in describing the Earth's biodiversity," explained Chandler. "You can imagine how many unknown species live in remote tropical forests."

Mironov will be visiting Georgia Southern again in May, and there is the possibility that more hidden biodiversity will be found on our campus. A copy of the publication describing the new species can be found [online](#).

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Tags: [College of Science and Mathematics](#), [Department of Biology](#)



# Jody Langdon wins second Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award

MARCH 26, 2018

Jody Langdon, Ph.D., associate professor of kinesiology in the Waters College of Health Professions at Georgia Southern University, has been recognized as a recipient of the 2018 Regents' Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award (SoTL).

Langdon was also awarded the 2017 Georgia Southern SoTL Award due to her outstanding contributions of the SoTL.

"It is an honor to be selected as one of this year's award winners," stated Langdon. "I am happy to represent Georgia Southern University and add to its long list of contributors to excellence in SoTL research."



Jody Langdon, Ph.D.

Annually, the Board of Regents recognizes two University System of Georgia faculty for their impact in the area of SoTL. As a recipient of the award, Langdon will receive a monetary award of \$5,000. She was also recognized in front of more than 600 distinguished guests at the annual Regent's Scholarship Gala in Atlanta on March 2.

A member of the Georgia Southern faculty since 2010, Langdon has made it her focus to embed SoTL into her teaching, research and professional service commitments. Nominations were reviewed by a panel of faculty and administrators from across the University System.

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